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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/715,888	11/18/2003	Nobuo Sasaki	SCEI 16.677A	3690

26304 7590 06/15/2006

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EXAMINER	
HARRISON, CHANTE E	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2628	

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/715,888	SASAKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Chante Harrison	2628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *18 November 2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-13* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) *1-10* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *11-13* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1-14-04, 11-1-04
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the following communication: Preliminary Amendment filed on 11/18/03.

2. Claims 11-13 are pending in this application. Claims 11 and 12 are independent claims. Claims 1-10 have been canceled.

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 09/438,652, filed on 11/12/99.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement filed 11/18/03 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Karl Wood, US 2002/0027559 A1, 3/2002.

As per independent claim 11, Wood discloses a preprocessing portion (Fig. 1 "14, 20 & 26") operably coupled to receive primitive parameters (i.e. receiving source images stored as polygonal model data, e.g. primitive surfaces) (pp. 2, Para 17 & 18), wherein the preprocessing portion produces pixel information from the primitive parameters based on the primitive parameters (pp. 2, Para 19 & 20); a pixel engine (Fig. 1 "28") operably coupled to the preprocessing portion (Fig. 1 "28 connected to "14-26" via bus "18") , wherein the pixel engine receives the pixel information (pp. 3, Para 24), and calculates intermediate data from the pixel information (i.e. calculate modulation) (pp. 3, Para 25-26; pp. 4, Para 33-34); and memory (Fig. 1 "41") operably coupled to the pixel engine (Fig. 1 "28" connected to "41"), wherein the memory stores the intermediate data

(i.e. texture memory "41" stores modulation values, L', that are modified texel map coordinate levels) (pp. 3, Para 27; pp. 4, Para 33-34), wherein the pixel engine reads the intermediate data from the memory (i.e. mapping hardware supplies the modulation values) (pp. 3, Para 25) and calculates a final data from the fed-back intermediate data (i.e. DPU "28" generates pixel coordinates, COL, from modulation values, MOD, fed back into the DPU) (pp. 3, Para 24 & 27). Wood inherently teaches an image generation circuit performing storage and feedback of intermediate data as he teaches an apparatus including a memory for receiving an offset value that corresponds to a stored texture map data at a level offset from an original texture map level where each offset map is retrieved and fedback to a component of the apparatus to generate final pixel values for display. Thus, each offset texture map level is stored as it corresponds to a range of stored original texture map levels, which may be recalled as required.

As per independent claim 12, Wood discloses a preprocessing block (Fig. 1 "14, 20 & 26") that receives primitive parameters (i.e. receiving source images stored as polygonal model data, e.g. primitive surfaces) (pp. 2, Para 17 & 18) and produces pixel information from the primitive parameters (pp. 2, Para 19 & 20); a pixel engine (Fig. 1 "28") operably coupled to the preprocessing block (Fig. 1 "28 connected to "14-26" via bus "18"), wherein the pixel engine generates pixel values from the pixel information (i.e. calculate modulation) (pp. 3, Para 25-26; pp. 4, Para 33-34); and a feedback path from an output portion of the pixel engine (Fig. 1; path "MOD" is fed back into DPU from paths "L, F, Z, V & U" output from DPU), wherein the feedback path allows results of

operations performed by the pixel engine to be used in subsequent operations performed by the pixel engine (Fig. 1 "COL" ; i.e. DPU "28" as a result of performing operations using "L, F, Z, V & U" receives a return value, MOD, that is subsequently used to output values, COL). Wood inherently teaches an image generation circuit performing storage and feedback of intermediate data as he teaches an apparatus including a memory for receiving an offset value that corresponds to a stored texture map data at a level offset from an original texture map level where each offset map is retrieved and fedback to a component of the apparatus to generate final pixel values for display. Thus, each offset texture map level is stored as it corresponds to a range of stored original texture map levels, which may be recalled as required.

As per dependent claim 13, Wood discloses the feedback path includes buffering (Fig. 1 DPU supplied values "L, F, Z, V & U" are processed to correspond to a stored texture map level in memory "41") such that a plurality of pixels can be processed during each of a plurality of passes in a multipass operation (i.e. texture map data can be recalled as needed for processing and generation of image data) (pp. 2, Para 18), wherein each pass has associated information that is used to configure the image processing unit (i.e. processing, e.g. lighting calculations, depth and surface color modulation, may be performed on a per-primitive or per-vertex basis) (pp. 2, Para 20; pp. 3, Para 24; pp. 4, Para 33-34).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chante Harrison whose telephone number is 571-272-7659. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kee Tung can be reached on 571-272-7794. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Chante Harrison
Examiner
Art Unit 2628

Ch
May 26, 2006